Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons

Report to Saskatchewan's Minister Responsible for Seniors 2005-06

December 2006

2007-01437/

ANNUAL REPORT: 2005-06

SASKATCHEWAN PROVINCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF OLDER PERSONS

REPORT TO THE MINISTER

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

December 2006

The Honourable Graham Addley
Minister Responsible for Seniors
Legislative Building
REGINA SK S4S 0B3

Dear Minister Addley:

The Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons is pleased to present the 2005-06 annual report.

The Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons was established in 2000, with a mandate to make recommendations and advise the Minister Responsible for Seniors on important seniors issues. This is aided by the committee's diverse group of committed members, each bringing strength to our purpose.

Mr. Minister, it has been an excellent experience working with everyone on the committee.

Yours truly,

Maria Reardon

Mrs. Maria Reardon
Chairperson
Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons

INTRODUCTION

This is the fifth annual report of the Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons since its beginning in 2000. The following report describes the activities and composition of the committee for 2005-06.

CREATING LINKAGES

The Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons continues to remain committed to examining issues related to older persons in Saskatchewan. During the 2005-06 year, the committee had the opportunity to create linkages and share information as listed below.

Developing Relationships

The Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons had significant membership turnover in June 2005. The attrition was due to completion of the terms of office. One of the top priorities of the Committee was to build a strong relationship with the new members.

The Committee focused on team-building and an in-depth orientation in February 2006 for the benefit of all members.

Building Independence

Ms Glenda Hanson, Senior Program Consultant, Employment and Income Assistance Division, made an informative presentation on Saskatchewan Community Resources' Building Independence strategy. Materials on housing and the Saskatchewan Income Plan were distributed.

Informational Tour

In conjunction with a regular meeting of the Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons, members toured the Sherbrooke Community Centre in Saskatoon.

ACTIVITIES IN 2005-06

Throughout 2005-06, the Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons undertook work on a number of important issues related to older persons in Saskatchewan.

A Strategy for Alzheimer Disease and Related Dementias in Saskatchewan

With the release of *A Strategy for Alzheimer Disease and Related Dementias in Saskatchewan* the Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons created an Alzheimer Working Group to prioritize the actions. In February 2006 the Committee identified two priorities: ensuring that appropriate community supports and services are in place; and a First Link program, which is a referral system designed to ensure that those who are newly diagnosed have early access to information services and support.

Seniors' Week 2005

As recommended in the *Provincial Policy Framework and Action Plan for Older Persons*, the committee continued to follow through with the commitment to recognizing contributions of older persons. A revised poster, pamphlet, and letterhead were distributed regarding Seniors' Week.

Housing Options for Saskatchewan Seniors

In February 2006, the Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons, in collaboration with Saskatchewan Health and the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation (an agency of Saskatchewan Community Resources) printed and broadly distributed to seniors organizations and groups, housing authorities, and municipalities a booklet outlining the different public and private housing options available to Saskatchewan seniors.

Seniors' Gold Plan

In March 2006, the Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons met with the Minister Responsible for Seniors to discuss and advise on a Seniors' Gold Plan. The intent of the Seniors' Gold Plan was to recognize Saskatchewan seniors for their valuable contributions. This provided the Committee with the opportunity to help enhance the recognition of contributions of older persons – a key goal of the *Provincial Policy Framework and Action Plan for Older Persons*.

PRIORITY ISSUES FOR 2006-07 (WORKPLAN)

Throughout 2005-06, the Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons deliberated on a number of important issues related to older persons in Saskatchewan. While many of these activities were identified as priorities in last year's annual report, others emerged as the committee performed its role.

Housing Options for Saskatchewan Seniors

The Provincial Advisory Committee will further promote this booklet by distributing it to communities, including large urban centres, towns, villages, and hamlets.

Two-Year Workplan

The Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons will work on developing a two year workplan with a goal of presenting a list of their top five to six priorities, including recommendations facing Saskatchewan seniors to the Minister in October 2006.

Senior Citizens Ambulance Assistance Program

The Provincial Advisory Committee will meet with the Acute and Emergency Services Branch of Saskatchewan Health to a meeting to discuss this program. Access to, and use of, emergency transportation services has been identified as an issue of concern to seniors.

APPENDIX A
COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP FOR 2005-06

Lois Borden

Ms Borden is a retired civil servant with a special interest in seniors issues. She served in senior management positions in Saskatchewan Health and Alberta Health, and directed the development of home care programs in both provinces.

Before working for government, Lois was the assistant director of the Senior Citizens' Provincial Council in Saskatchewan. During that time, she worked with leaders of two provincial seniors organizations to achieve their amalgamation, and chaired the founding conference of the Saskatchewan Seniors Association Inc.

Alvin Gallinger (Vice-Chairperson)

Alvin Gallinger was born at Central Butte, Saskatchewan and raised on the family farm at Mawer. Later the family moved to the Rosetown District and he completed his schooling at Kindersley.

Following graduation from the University of Saskatchewan as a Civil Engineer, he began his working career with the Department of Highways, then with Municipal Road Assistance Authority and Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. In 1990 he became the CEO of New Careers Corporation and in 1993 the CEO of Pipestone Health District until retirement in 1999.

Alvin has remained active in the community as Past President of the Royal Canadian Legion, Director of the Grenfell Coop and Pipestone Feeders Inc. as well as a Councillor for the Town of Grenfell.

Harry Giles

Mr. Giles is actively involved with many organizations, such as the Royal Canadian Legion (Nutana Branch), Seniors' Coordinator with the North Park/Richmond Heights Community Association, Boomtown Volunteers Association with the Western Development Museum, and an Executive Member of the University of Saskatchewan and Federated Colleges Non-Academic Pension Plan.

Mr. Giles has also been involved with other organizations such as the National Pensioners and Seniors Federation of Canada and was on the Board of Directors at St. Mary's Credit Union.

Ethel Harmel

Ms Harmel is a retired nurse who spent part of her career as a general duty nurse and then moved into management with the Twin Rivers Health District as the Health Services Supervisor and Director of Health Services. Ms Harmel also was a member of the Health Services Utilization and Research Commission which included chairing a home care study and membership on a cholesterol testing guidelines committee.

Ms Harmel is a member of the Communities in Bloom Committee, was the treasurer for the Maidstone Recreation Board and founding member of the Maidstone Library Board.

Denis Jean

Mr. Jean has been involved with the Fédération des Aînés Fransaskois and has considerable experience and knowledge on issues related to francophone seniors. Mr. Jean is a retired farmer and hardware manager from the Debden area. He is currently the vice-president of the local seniors club.

William Klassen

Dr. Klassen is a retired physician with a special interest in gerontology and geriatrics. He is involved with the Seniors' University Group Inc. at the Seniors' Education Centre in Regina, the Saskatchewan Gerontology Association and the Health and Aging Department at the University of Regina.

During his professional career, he practiced 23 years as a family physician. After further training in geriatrics, he assumed a clinical teaching position in the College of Medicine's family medicine internship program at the Plains Health Centre in Regina. In addition to his practice and teaching duties, he was involved in the founding of the Saskatchewan Alzheimer and Related Dementia Society, the further development of the long-term care and active rehabilitation programs at Wascana Hospital, the Provincial Committee on the Safe Use of Drugs, the Provincial Geriatric Services Review Committee (1980), the Geriatrics Committee of the College of Family Practice of Canada, and the Santa Maria board of managers.

Rita Ledingham

Rita Ledingham is a retired registered nurse, who spent most of her career teaching in the nursing and home care/ special care aide programs at the Saskatoon campus of Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology.

Her most recent responsibilities include chair of the discipline committee, Saskatchewan Registered Nurses Association; member of the citizens advisory committee of the Saskatoon Board of Education; publication chair of the Saskatoon Council on Aging; and member of the Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism.

Margaret Lissel

Ms Lissel is a retired senior administrator with the Nursing Program at the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology.

Charlene Logan

Mrs. Logan is a board member of the Mamawetan Churchill River Regional Health Authority. She also serves as the health region representative on the Creighton/Denare Beach/Flin Flon Community Advisory Network and the North Saskatchewan Laundry and Support Services of Prince Albert. At the same time, she serves on the Nor-Man Regional Health Authority's Flin Flon District Health Council.

Maria Reardon (Chairperson)

Mrs. Reardon is the retired vice-president of the Canadian College of Health Service Executives. She is currently an education consultant with the Canadian Healthcare Association and supervises nine correspondence students in the Long Term Care Senior Management Course.

Mrs. Reardon is the past president of the Board of the Seniors' University Group, University of Regina, and currently serves on the Research and Publicity Committees. She is a member of the Canadian Federation of University Women and the Regina Symphony Women's Association. She is an associate member of the Royal United Services Institute. In 2004-05 she was involved in the promotion of the Canadian Health Network through the auspices of CATALIST, a seniors learning organization.

David Seright

Mr. Seright is a long-time Métis resident of northern Saskatchewan. He was a businessman in Buffalo Narrows, having owned and operated the Serights Service Inc. for more than 14 years. Prior to that, he held positions throughout government and private industry. He is currently the manager of J. Waite Fisheries Inc.

Mr. Seright is the Chairperson of the Keewatin Yatthé Regional Health Authority Board.

Alf Zimmerman

Mr. Zimmerman is a retired civil servant who has worked in the Departments of Finance, Social Services, and Education to name a few. He served in senior management positions in the areas of income security, research and planning, continuing care, and community grants and standards. In addition, Mr. Zimmerman was the Director of Operations with the Touchwood File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council.

Mr. Zimmerman is also actively involved with the Saskatchewan Retirees Association. In addition to this, Mr. Zimmerman is the mayor of Fort Qu'Appelle.

APPENDIX B
SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES

Provincial Advisory Committee of Older Persons	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Honorarium	$ 3,875	$ 3,875	$ 4,189	$ 4,800	$ 3,430	$ 4,763
Other Costs (e.g., travel/ sustenance/meetings)	5,968	7,937	9,913	10,698	7,184	11,809
Total	**$ 9,843**	**$11,812**	**$14,102**	**$15,498**	**$10,614**	**$16,572**